

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1-4, 6, and 7, of which claim 1 is independent. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of its subject matter. Claims 6 and 7 are newly added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

As the Examiner will appreciate, Applicants have substantially rewritten the claims to more clearly recite the invention.

As set forth in claim 1, the invention is directed to a recording apparatus for recording on a recording medium by a recording head, the apparatus comprising a conveying roller provided upstream of the recording head to convey the recording medium, a first both-side roller for inverting the recording medium, a first surface of which is recorded on by the recording head, a second both-side roller provided downstream of the first both-side roller, to invert the recording medium, a first surface of which is recorded on by the recording head, and a substantially linear conveyance path disposed between the first both-side roller and second both-side roller, and extending from the conveying roller.

Each of claims 1-5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Blackman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,332, 068). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as now more clearly set forth in independent claim 1, as well as claims 2-4, 6, and 7 depending therefrom, provides for a linear conveyance path disposed between the first both-side roller and a second both-side roller, and which extends from the conveying roller. The utilization of this particular path in the arrangement set forth in claim 1

makes it is possible to provide a recording apparatus for conveying a recording medium which is very thick or very rigid without enlarging the apparatus size.

Blackman et al. relates to a print recording apparatus having a modular duplex media handling system. For duplex printing, the media sheet is fed through the simplex media handling system along a media path to perform first-side printing. The media sheet then is fed along a portion of the media path into the duplex handling system which flips the media sheet, then returns the media sheet with the simplex media handling system for a second-side printing. Blackman et al. contains a conveying path for inverting the recording medium, a first surface of which is recorded. However, it is respectfully submitted that Blackman et al. fails to teach or suggest the claimed substantially linear conveyance path disposed between the first both-side roller and the second both-side roller, and extending from the conveying roller. Blackman et al. therefor does not teach or suggest the invention as recited in the claims now on file, and those claims are believed patentable over the applied art.

As noted above, the remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to claim 1. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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